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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

1. Uranium Shipments
2. Port of Variation

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SUBJECT

**PLACE ACQUIRED** 

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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- 1. Uranium ore mined in Bulgaria is being stored at the port of Varna in three large hangars located immediately behind the fish market. The hangars are built of wood and are covered with sheet metal. Each hangar is approximately 200 meters long, 50 meters wide, and 10 meters high.
- 2. Uranium ore excavated at the Bukhovo mines is brought to these hangars where it is kept until it can be transported to the USSR. After it is excavated, the ore is processed in specially-constructed factories at Bukhovo and at Gara Yana. 1 Subsequently, it is transported by special trains, guarded by Militia attached to the mines, to Varna for deposit in the hangars. The hangars are strongly guarded; at night, members of the Militia fire without warning at trespassers.
- 3. From Varna, the ore is transported to the USSR only by Soviet ships which unload at the ports of Odessa and Sevastopol. Regularly, once a week, one or more Soviet ships, depending upon the amount of ore in the hangars, arrive to transport the . ore to the USSR. The ships most often used in this service are the TOLBUKHIN, 8,000 tons, and the MEKHANIK GERASIMOV, a 9,500 ton Liberty ship.
- 4. The port of Varna has been declared a military zone and only Bulgarian and Soviet ships may enter. Ships of other nationalities load and unload at Burgas.
- 5. For the past three months, Soviet ships have been unloading at Varna cargoes composed almost entirely of heavy artillery for infantry or antiaircraft units. Soldiers load the artillery pieces on special trains which haul the pieces into the interior under special military escort. The soldiers report that most of the antiaircraft guns are sent to Kazanluk for the defense of the military factory there, and to Sofia for the defense of the city and of the Bozhurishte airfield.

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